

Message Text

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TAGS: EEC, GR

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DEBATES GREEK ACCESSION:

POSTSCRIPT TO EC COUNCIL'S "YES" TO GREECE

1. DURING ITS CURRENT SESSION IN STRASBOURG THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT HELD A TWO HOUR DEBATE MARCH 10 ON EC RELATIONS WITH GREECE AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE EC COUNCIL'S FEBRUARY 9 DECISION TO ACCEPT GREECE'S APPLICATION FOR EC MEMBERSHIP.

2. SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE EC COUNCIL, LUXEMBOURG PRIME-FOREIGN MINISTER HAILED THE COUNCIL'S DECISION AS A "MAJOR POLITICAL EVENT" IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT GREECE REGARDED EC MEMBERSHIP AS THE BEST POSSIBLE MEANS FOR REINFORCING DEMOCRACY AND PROMOTING BALANCED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. ANTICIPATING THE PARLIAMENTARIANS CONCERN ABOUT HOW LONG IT WILL TAKE TO GET NEGOTIATIONS UNDER WAY, THRON PREDICTED THAT IT WOULD TAKE THE EC AROUND SIX MONTHS TO WORK OUT A NEGOTIATING MANDATE. SPEAKING AS LUXEMBOURG'S FOREIGN MINISTER, THORN WARNED AGAINST THE DANGERS OF USING EC ENLARGEMENT AS A PRETEXT FOR WEAKENING THE COM-

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MUNITY INTERNALLY FOR FOR PROMOTING THE CONCEPT OF A

"TWO-SPEED" EUROPE. WITH REGARD TO TURKEY, THORN SAID THE EC'S ASSOCIATION WITH TURKEY "IS CLOSE TO OUR HEARTS", THAT EC/TURKISH RELATIONS MUST BE "UP-GRADED," AND FINALLY, THAT GREEK ACCESSION SHOULD SERVE "AS A FACORT FOR PEACE" WITH TURKEY.

3. THE ENSURING DEBATE AFFORDED EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SOAMES A FURTHER OPPORTUNITY TO DISPEL DOUBTS

ENTHUSIASM FOR GREEK ACCESSION. HE NOTED THAT THE COMMISSION HAD MAKE THREE RECOMMENDATIONS IN ITS OPINION": "YES" TO THE GREEK APPLICATION; "YES" O INITIATING NEGOTIATIONS; AND EC AID TO GREECE FOR A LIMITED PERIOD DURING ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS IN ORDER SMOOTH GREECE'S ADJUSTMENT TO LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY D AVOID THE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE DEROGATIONS BY EECE FROM COMMUNITY OBLIGATIONS. THE COUNCIL, HE

POSALS, BUT HAD REJECTED THE IDEA OF HELPING GREECE

SO WANTED TO DISPEL SUSPICIONS THAT THE COMMISSION HAD NDITIONED GREEK ACCESSION ON SETTLEMENT BY GREECE OF L ITS DISPUTES WITH TURKEY AND GREECE'S RETURN TO LL PARTICIPATING IN NATO. THE COMMISSION HAD ONLY

PUTE WITH TURKEY BEFORE BECOMING AN EC MEMBER. TO A QUERY AS TO WHETHER THE COMMUNITY HAD OBTAINED "RELIABLE GUARANTEES" FROM THE GOG THAT IT WOULD NOT USE ACCESSION AS A MENAS OF FURTHERING ITS OWN INTERESTS ON CYPRUS VIS-A-VIS TURKEY, SIR CHRISTOPHER SAID GREECE "HAS GIVEN UNDERTAKINGS TO THIS EFFECT."

4. DURING THE DEBATE THE PARLIAMENTARIANS WELCOMED THE COUNCIL'S DECISION ON THE GREEK APPLICATION AND SIR CHRISTOPHER'S EXPLANATION OF THE COMMISSION'S VIEWS (WHICH LED A SOCIALIST DEPUTY TO WONDER HOW THE MIS-UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE COMMISSION'S VIEWS AROSE IN THE FIRST PLACE, AND ANOTHER DEPUTY TO BLAME THE CONFUSION ON THE PRESS. A NUMBER OF DEPUTIES IN FACT COMMENDED THE EXCELLENCE OF THE COMMISSION'S PAPER, AND THERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WAS A GENERAL APPRECIATION OF THE POTENTIAL DIFFICULTIES IN ADAPTING THE GREEK ECONOMY TO ECONOMIC LIFE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. HINTON

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